

## **Mayor Mallory's Message for the Week, March 19, 2007**

### ***Youth Driven Initiatives Are Good for the City***

Cincinnati is fortunate to have so many talented and impressive young people. However, too often they are an underutilized resource. As a city we must find ways to engage young people and give them a role in shaping the future of our city. By valuing the contributions of our youth, we give them a stake in our community early in life and establish a pattern of community involvement that will last a lifetime.

As Mayor, I have made investing youth a priority of my administration. In order to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century; we must ensure that our young people have every opportunity to be successful. Last year, during a High School Listening Tour, I found out what young people were concerned about. I learned that they are paying attention to what is going on in Cincinnati and that they want to be part of helping to improve the city.

One thing I heard over and over in meeting with high school students was that they felt that they did not have an outlet for their voices to be heard. They felt that their concerns were not being taken seriously. So, I decided to set up a Youth Council to empower Cincinnati's youth and give them direct access to my office.

More than 130 students from all parts of the city applied to be part of the Youth Council. We had our first meeting earlier this month and they are already hard at work making our city a better place to live. For their first project, they are partnering with Rumpke Recycling and my Young Professionals Kitchen Cabinet on a recycling pilot program in 6 Cincinnati high schools.

Another important issue is the availability of job opportunities for school age people in Cincinnati. Young people want to work. So, we made jobs for youth a center piece in the 2007 city budget by setting aside \$1.5 million for youth employment programs. Last week, we announced the first piece of that youth employment initiative: MuralWorks, a program that will train about 80 young people to be artist apprentices, and they will paint 6 murals in Cincinnati neighborhoods.

In order to make our great city an even greater city, we must lift up our younger citizens. I know that they are up to the challenge.

– Mayor Mark Mallory

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Click [here](#) to learn more about MuralWorks – Youth Artist Mural Program

Click [here](#) to learn more about the Recycling Pilot Program in Cincinnati Public Schools

Click [here](#) to learn more about the Mayor's Youth Council